

Editorial Comments.

Three more cancer cures by radium are reported from New York.

Edgar H. James, U. S. Marshal for Kentucky, entered upon his duties last Thursday.

Fred S. Spiegel, Republican, has succeeded Henry T. Hunt, Democrat, as Mayor of Cincinnati.

Dave Smith, of Hodgenville, insists on being a fourth candidate in the contest for United States Senator.

An ordinance has been passed by the board of aldermen of Louisville prohibiting "fortune telling" of any kind in the city for pay.

Corn dropped ten cents a bushel in Chicago, Saturday, closing at 61 cents a bushel. The prevailing price in Hopkinsville is 80 cents.

Express companies will reduce rates 17 per cent on February 1. The companies report a falling off of 25 per cent in business last year.

Latt McLaughlin, who made a freak race for State Senator in this district last year, now says he is a candidate for United States Senator on the Republican ticket.

Dentists in Germany are given diplomas as "Tooth Physicians" and they have put up a concerted strike in all the universities for a more complimentary title. They want the American title of D. D. S.

A statistician has figured it out that the average age of marriage of "women of ability" in America is between 27 and 28 years. The "ability" probably refers to those able to get divorces from their first husbands.

The most unique New Year's wedding in Texas took place at Fort Worth when Oscar Kreuse, 7 feet 1 inch tall, married Mrs. Martha Duncan, 4 feet 11 inches tall. The top of the bride's head just reaches her husband's lower vest pocket.

Dr. Joseph Horak has succeeded in grafting on to a living girl's arm at the elbow the arm of a girl who committed suicide and causing the arm to become live and flexible in three weeks. Was there no young man in Prussia willing to give a girl his arm?

Dr. Benussi, an Austrian scientist, has invented a device that when attached to the fifth rib, which receives impressions from his breathing, will register when a lie is told by the wearer. But, pray what is to be done with the politician who wears out his fifth rib?

Paducah police commissioners have started some needed reform rules. Drinking on the force is absolutely forbidden for the first time in years and "mooching" (the taking of drinks, cigars, fruit, etc., without paying for them) is to be punished by suspension or removal.

Senator Henry Overstreet, of Owensboro, is on the right track. He is quoted as saying: "It is up to this Democratic administration to get the state out of debt," he said, "and it should begin by repealing a lot of the laws, calling for the expenditure of money, passed by the last legislature."

NEW OFFICERS

Elected By Church Hill Grange For 1914.

C. Gary, W. Master. A.
R. H. Boyd, W. Overseer.
W. C. Binn, W. Lecturer.
W. S. Pierce, W. Steward.
Frank P. Stowe, W. Asst. Steward.
Geo. R. Pierce, Chaplain.
J. M. Adams, Treasurer.
Miss Lona Ritchie Williams, Secretary.
L. H. Smithson, Business Agent.
Mrs. S. F. Holloway, Librarian.
Miss Maile Lindsay, of Cadiz, is visiting Mrs. Will Kimmons.

AUTOMOBILE
LAW CHANGED

Owner Is Made Liable For Damages Done By His Machine.

AMENDMENT AS TO SPEED.

The Licensed Chauffeurs And The Board Of Examiners.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 5.—A new automobile law, making drastic changes in the method of collecting the motor vehicle license tax and putting in force regulations as stringent as those proposed in the bill introduced in 1912 by Senator Newcomb, of Louisville, will be introduced in the General Assembly on the first bill day, it is said.

One of the features is a section making the owner of an automobile liable for damage caused by the machine, regardless of who is operating it, and placing on him the burden of proof in a damage case to show that he was not violating the law. As a complement to this section is another making it a felony to take out a machine without the permission of the owner.

No one, excepting the owner of an automobile, would be allowed to operate one without a chauffeur's license, and the bill creates a board of examiners composed of three men, one of them to be the commissioner of motor vehicles and one of them to be appointed by the Governor and the other to be appointed by the Attorney General.

The commissioner will succeed the automobile clerk in the office of the Secretary of State, but will be appointed by the latter official and be assigned a clerk and stenographer.

The speed limit for motor vehicles will not be changed, save in respect to the distance for which the speed must be maintained in order to amount to a violation of the law. The present law specifies an eighth of a mile; but the new bill has no such modification. Civil officers complain that this eighth of a mile provision is a loophole in the present law, and another weak point in the enforcement of the regulation is strengthened by making imprisonment as well as a fine the punishment for breaking the speed limit.

Secretary Ramsey, of the Louisville Automobile Club, took back with him to Louisville a draft of the measure, which was prepared by Assistant Attorney General M. M. Logan.

CHANGE PROPOSED

Abolishing Third-Class Certificates To Teachers.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 5.—Third-class certificates entitling the holders to teach in the rural schools of this State will be abolished if the amendment to the school law as prepared by Superintendent of Public Instruction Hamlett is passed.

At present, applicants to teach are given first, second and third-class certificates and many persons holding third-class certificates are in charge of large rural schools. In order to raise the standard among teachers it is proposed to abolish the third-class certificates.

Pembroke Masonic Lodge.

Pembroke Masonic lodge elected the following officers:
C. E. Mann, W. M.
T. D. Gray, S. W.
E. U. Bland, J. W.
S. G. Ragsdale, Secretary
R. J. Garrett, Treasurer
Dr. J. R. Payne, S. and T.
E. S. Franklin, S. and T.

THE COMMISSION MOVEMENT
A BUSINESS PROPOSITION

The People Are Aroused And Will No Longer Submit To Be Boss Ridden.

To The Citizens of Hopkinsville, — Greetings.

Indeed the new year starts well and we have many reasons to be happy and thankful, and I move, Mr. Chairman, that when we get ready to retire this night we all humbly bow and thank the God of us all for the fact that the New Era has at last discovered that there is really an "H. B. M. A." in the beautiful city of Hopkinsville.

When I read the more than a column editorial in the issue of last Saturday, I felt like some people I have seen in an old time revival, until I got to the last part of this editorial in the second column at the top of the page, then I just smiled. There is an old saying, "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," and, just wondered if somebody was not getting just a little mad. Of course it was enough to make some men mad, who had arrogated to themselves the sole right to speak politically for the 1,500 white voters in Hopkinsville, when over 800 of these voters voluntarily signed a petition, in two hours' time, Friday, asking the privilege to speak for themselves. It took lots of courage for these men who had long been denied this right to actually put their names to a petition, not circulated by any political boss. It was my privilege to ask signatures to this petition and it did my heart good to see how anxiously the people signed it. It showed to me clearly that the people of Hopkinsville are ready for a new declaration of independence, and that hereafter they will speak for themselves. One of the recent candidates for councilman told me that he actually had the courage to announce publicly that if he should be elected he would favor municipal ownership of public utilities and that just as soon as he made this announcement the "Boss" called him on the "carpet" and "razzle dazzled" him to beat the band, for daring to make such a statement without consulting the Boss. Think of it! How could such a thing occur right here in Hopkinsville? You would hardly believe it, would you? This Boss told this candidate that he must not make such a statement and that he, the Boss, would give out only such statements as he thought wise to divulge to the people. This Boss further told this candidate that he must not permit the H. B. M. A. to influence him in such matters. What do you think of this? Had you not supposed that candidates were privileged to speak for themselves on all issues before the people?

Now I want to revert for a moment to the H. B. M. A. I was present both at its inception and its birth and had the honor to write the Constitution and By-Laws. It is not a political organization and never will be. It can never participate in party or partisan politics and no member desires it to do so. And every member would resent its becoming allied with partisan politics. If those who control the New Era would attend more of the H. B. M. A. meetings they would not even suggest that there is the remotest possibility of this Association getting stranded on political rocks.

Political bosses and men who make politics a business are always advising business men to stay out of politics, because they know that when business men become interested in public questions it means the end of the professional politicians. Every Cagliostro and Cataline in politics is always shocked when men dare oppose their leadership. The idea of its being "freaky" to want to put Hopkinsville where the Constitution prescribes she shall be, is so ludicrous that it is not even laughable.

If the New Era refers more specifically to the Commission form of Government, then it displays an

ignorance which is wholly inexcusable for a journal seeking intelligent patronage.

There is nothing new or "freaky" about the Commission Form of Government. It is the business way to govern any municipality and everywhere people are rebelling against political bosses and they are regarded in most places as mere Sapphytes preying upon a decayed manhood. I know of no other word than Sapphyte which so fully describes the rapidly disappearing bosses, because these bosses can exist only where courage and pride and ambition are disintegrating with decay.

To put Hopkinsville in the third class cities and give her the privilege of deciding for herself whether or not she desires to have a Commission Government is not a political question. It is a business question and one entirely proper for the H. B. M. A. to advocate. The conduct of the affairs of the city of Hopkinsville is a business proposition. There is approximately six million dollars worth of property within the corporate limits of Hopkinsville and to intelligently safeguard and tax this property and then get a dollar in value for every dollar expended of the people's money is a big business proposition.

The people of Hopkinsville do not owe any man any political office. If they ever owed any debts of this kind they have been long since paid with usury. It is of little concern to the people as to the individuals who hold the offices, but unless I mistake the sentiment and spirit of the people, they do propose to be seriously concerned about how the affairs of the city are to be administered in the future.

Every citizen is beginning to feel his responsibility as a stockholder and director in the Corporation of Hopkinsville and they can no longer be fooled by the tricks of a Cagliostro nor the audacity of a Cataline.

I notice that the New Era has been claiming that this movement is in the interest of Republicans. This is too absurd to merit notice. There is some talk going around on the streets, no doubt inspired by the Boss, that if we do away with the present system the city will go Republican. Such claims are too ludicrous to merit serious consideration. Every intelligent man knows that Hopkinsville will never again have any negro policeman. The day has passed in the South when the cry of negro rule frightens any intelligent man. It is universally recognized that the affairs of municipality, county, state, and nation will be administered only by white people and the man who raises the cry of negro domination is appealing to issues and passions long since dead and buried and which no earthly power can resurrect.

There are a hundred good reasons I could give for making Hopkinsville a 3rd class city—and when this is done we will have made long strides in advance—and then when the issue of a Commission form of Government is presented for the consideration of our citizens, I think I can give a hundred good reasons for this form of government—and I will have something to say at the Mass Meeting at the Court House tonight which I think may interest you—but whether you want to hear me or not, come out and hear the Hon. C. C. Gilbert, of Nashville Tenn., who is thoroughly posted on the subject and a most entertaining speaker.

The days of the "Gum Shoe" politician have been numbered. The people are everywhere demanding that all public questions shall be discussed in open meetings. There must be no more "Big Four Slates" in Hopkinsville. The principle is inherently wrong it matters not how good the men they select. Such methods are in violation of every

LEGISLATURE
TO CONVENE

Terrill and Scott Nominated As Presiding Officers.

ASSEMBLY STARTS TO-DAY

Most of The Contests for Places Settled In Advance.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 5.—Everything is in readiness for the convening of the two branches of the General Assembly to-day. The caucuses were held this afternoon with most of the contests settled in advance.

Senator M. O. Scott, of Metcalfe, a Beckham man, won for President pro tem of the Senate, over Senator Hile Huffaker, of Louisville, a McCreary man.

Speaker Claude Terrill, a McCreary man, was re-nominated by acclamation for Speaker of the House. Jas. E. Stone will be Clerk of the House.

GOOD TIMES

In Hopkinsville and Rosy Outlook For 1914.

In the face of all the hard times talk and predictions of a scarcity of money, the year 1913 was a prosperous one for Hopkinsville and Christian county. Business of all kinds was active at all times, and there was never any appreciable signs of a letup in investments and general expansion along all lines. People who had money to invest were cautious, but once satisfied they showed no hesitancy in letting it go. The city council starts into the new year with \$10,000 cash on hand in the general funds of the city, \$2,000 of it saved from the revenues of last year.

Members Docked

Under the income tax law Senators and Representatives will have lighter pay envelopes than usual this month, as the \$45 will be held out for each unmarried man \$35 for each married member.

principle of Democracy and good government and such methods could not possibly obtain without a boss and Hopkinsville has reached that stage of development where bosses will not be tolerated. All bosses look alike to me—and there never existed a boss who could stand the white light of public opinion expressed fearlessly in the open forum. All bosses wear Gum Shoes and have secret meetings and speak in whispers. Come to the Court House tonight and there won't be any whispering.

It is a well known fact that Business Men's Associations Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade are unselfishly for better civic conditions everywhere and that the great majority of reforms in Municipal Government are due to these associations. They are simply trying everywhere to give the best possible government for the least possible money.

The H. B. M. A. has no axe to grind. It merely desires to give Hopkinsville a government as good as the best. As an Association it has no candidates for political office. The New Era need have no fears of its becoming a political association, but the H. B. M. A. will ever be alert to everything that makes for a better and bigger Hopkinsville and it will never pursue any Gum Shoe tactics, but will make its fight in the open. In nearly every city that has adopted the commission form of government the commercial clubs have led the fight.

JOHN FRANKLIN BIBLE.

MONSTER
PETITION

With Nearly 1,000 Names Is Ready To Send To General Assembly.

CITIZENS ARE IN EARNEST.

Movement For Commission Government Amounts To a Popular Groundswell.

Members of the committee for obtaining Commission form of Government for Hopkinsville circulated petitions in the business section of the city Friday from 10 to 12 o'clock and in two hours secured 700 signatures, not one man in 50 refusing to sign it.

The petitions read as follows: To Senator R. M. Salmon and Representative John C. Duffy and other members of the Kentucky Legislature:

"We the undersigned voters of the city of Hopkinsville, earnestly petition you to pass a bill placing Hopkinsville in the third class, where by virtue of her population she rightfully belongs, thus giving her the commercial prestige now denied her. We further petition you to pass an enabling act giving the third class cities the right and option of commission form of government."

Those who circulated the petitions were C. O. Wright, A. H. Eckles, J. F. Bible, W. A. Wilgus, M. C. Forbes, C. M. Meacham, W. T. Tandy, Geo. D. Dalton, Geo. E. Gary, Frank Rives, E. M. Flack, H. A. Keach, Jonett Henry, T. J. McReynolds, C. H. Blich and others.

Probably 200 additional names have been added since Friday, by those anxious to sign the petition, which will be forwarded in a day or two with more than 1,000 names. Only white men were asked to sign and nearly all of the signers are Democrats, though commission government is non-political. About 75 per cent of the Democrats in the city who voted in the last election have signed the monster petition. Others who wish to sign can do so by seeing any of the committeemen.

Hon. John C. Duffy is committed to the proposition. Senator Salmon, it is understood, will be governed by the wishes of his constituents.

FORGED CHECKS

Passed on Merchants By Strange Negro Man.

G. G. Reeder, a groceryman on Fourth street, cashed a check to which R. E. Cooper's name had been forged last Friday. It was presented by a strange negro and was for \$7.50. The man bought about \$2 worth of groceries and was given the difference in cash. It was on a Commercial & Savings Bank check printed over for the Planters Bank & Trust Co. Mr. Reeder grew suspicious and called up Mr. Cooper, who said he had not given the check. A similar check for \$6.75 was passed at Mrs. E. Clark's grocery. The name used was Will Davis. The forger has not been located.

Aged Hospital Patient.

William Evans, a patient at the Western State Hospital from Graves county, died Saturday of general paralysis of the insane, aged eighty years. He had been here only seventeen days. The body was shipped to Mayfield for interment.

A Magnificent Picture.

The "Last Day of Pompeii" shown at the Rex last week was the finest picture show that popular theater has ever presented to the public. Praise is in the mouth of every